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Imagery analysis report

Probable SA-X-10 Series Production at Leningrad Guided Missile Production Plant 458, USSR (S)

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PROBABLE SA-X-10 SERIES PRODUCTION AT LENINGRAD GUIDED MISSILE PRODUCTION PLANT 458, USSR (S)

1. (S/D) A probable SA-X-10 launcher, SA-X-10 canisters, and probable canister shipping crates have been identified at Leningrad Guided Missile Production Plant 458 () USSR. The continued presence of the canisters and crates indicates that the SA-X-10 missile is probably in series production at this facility. Between February and May 1979, a probable SA-X-10 launcher (Figure 1) was in a separately secured storage area. Subsequent imagery revealed that it had been removed. The launcher may have been at the plant for compatibility testing. In June 1980, SA-X-10 canisters measuring () long by () in diameter were observed in an open storage area (Figure 2) that also contained SA-5 sustainer canisters and booster crates. Similar-sized canisters were first observed in mid-March 1980 on imagery of marginal interpretability. An additional storage area for SA-X-10 canisters was noted on a concrete apron in front of a probable shop building, adjacent to the open storage area (Figure 2). Imagery of June and July 1980 provided the first identification of this storage area.

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2. (S/D) On () probable SA-X-10 canister shipping crates were in a temporary crate storage overflow area and a transshipment yard within the plant (Figure 3). The temporary crate storage overflow area is between the two largest fabrication and assembly buildings and adjacent to the rail spur. The number of crates observed there was subject to more fluctuation than in other SA-X-10-associated areas. Suspect SA-X-10 canister shipping crates measuring () were first identified in the transshipment yard on June imagery. Analysis of these crates was hampered by the shadows cast by the overhead crane and camouflage netting. Crates have been identified at three additional locations involved in various aspects of the SA-X-10 development program: Sary-Shagan Operational Support Base () Feodosiya Naval Missile Support Facility () where components of the SA-NX-6 (the naval version of the SA-X-10) are stored; and Minsk SAM Training Facility A06-5 ().

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3. (S/D) SA-5 missile production at Plant 458 appears to be continuing at a pace that is capable of supporting the present rate of demand. Construction materials have been seen adjacent to all three fabrication and assembly buildings, suggesting internal modifications. The modification program probably began in 1976 or 1977. Discarded pieces of equipment were noted in a scrap yard in May 1979 (Figure 4), and the construction materials had been removed from the area of the buildings. The presence of SA-X-10 missile canisters and probable shipping crates after the completion of the internal modification program indicates the start of probable series production of the SA-X-10 missile.

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4. (S/D) The numbers of canisters and probable shipping crates observed to date would not be sufficient to support a widespread deployment of the SA-X-10 system; however, accurate counts of both crates and canisters have been impaired by camouflage netting over the transshipment and storage areas. A security screen was constructed in 1977 between the largest of the fabrication/assembly buildings and the open storage yard. Additional covered storage space completed between 1975 and 1978 has further concealed production (Figure 5). Because components for both the SA-5 and SA-X-10 are probably produced in each of the three fabrication and assembly buildings, none of the buildings can be exclusively associated with a specific missile system..

(S) Comments and queries regarding this report are welcome. They may be directed to [redacted] Soviet Strategic Forces Division, Imagery Exploitation Group, NPIC, [redacted]

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